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GRAMMAR

OF THE

KAMBA LANGUAGE,

EASTERN EQUATORIAL AFRICA.

BY

J. T. LAST,

OF THE CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

LONDON:

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE,

NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE, CHARING CROSS, W.C.

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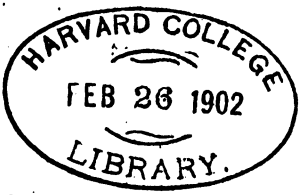

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PREFACE.

THE Kamba language is one of the great Bántu family of East Africa, south of the equator. The tribe is settled in two separate enclaves. Krapf found a population of seventy thousand to ninety thousand souls, surrounded by aliens of the Hamitic and Nuba-Fulah groups, and he published a vocabulary at Tübingen, in 1850. Last, a missionary of the Church Missionary Society, the author of this grammatical treatise, found a large number of the same tribe in U-Sagára, near his place of residence, Mamboia, who had migrated southwards. This book is a valuable addition to our knowledge. The language is noticed at page 359 of my "Modern Languages of Africa."

ROBERT CUST,

Member of Committee of Church Missionary and British and Foreign Bible Societies, and Foreign Translation Committee of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

LONDON,
July 31, 1885.

OUTLINES

OF

KAMBA GRAMMAR.

THE ALPHABET.

The letters may be divided into three groups, *e.g.*, (1) The vowels; (2) The consonants; (3) The compound consonants.

The vowels are pronounced as in Italian. The consonants generally as in English.

A is pronounced like *a* in *father*.

B

Ch is only used as *ch* in *cherry* (*c* is represented by *s*).

D

E is pronounced like *a* in *gate*.

F

G, always hard, as *g* in *gate*; *never* as *j*.

H

I, like *i* in *machine*.

J

K
L
M
N
NG'
O, like *o* in Italian, negative *no* or *au* in *aught*.
P
R
S
SH, *sh* in *shine*.
T
U, *oo* in *food*.
V, as in *very*.
W
Y
Z, as in *zeal*.

Vowels.	Consonants.	Compound Consonants.
A E I O U	B, D, F, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, P, R, S, T, V, W, Y, Z.	Ch, Dz, Kh, Ng, Ng', Ny, Sh, Th.

SUBSTANTIVES.

KAMBA substantives may be conveniently divided into nine classes.

Gender is not distinguished by the form of the words. When necessary, it is denoted by the adjective *-ume*, male, and *-ke*, female.

Substantives have two numbers, singular and plural, which are distinguished by their initial letters.

It is of great importance to know well the various classes and forms of substantives, as upon these classes and forms all adjectives, pronouns, and verbs depend for the forms of their prefixes.

In the third class of nouns, in which no change is made to form the plural, the number is shown by the form of the prefix of the adjective or pronoun connected with it.

CLASS I. Those which begin with *m-*, *'m-*, *mu-*, *mo-*, and are the names of living beings. These form their plural by changing their initial letters into *a-*; as—

Mundu, a man;	*Andu*, men.
Mtanya, a judge;	*Atanya*, judges.
Mtongui, a guide;	*Atongui*, guides.
Mwimi, an agriculturist;	*Aimi*, agriculturists.

CLASS II. Those which begin with *m-*, *'m-*, *mw-*, *mw-*, and are not the names of living beings. These form their plurals by changing *m-*, etc., into *mi-*; as—

Mti, a tree;	*Miti*, trees.
'Mmongo, the backs;	*Mimongo*, backs.
Muguwa, an awl;	*Miguwa*, awls.
Mwamba, a baobab tree;	*Miamba*, baobab trees.

CLASS III. Those which do not change to form the plural; as—

Numba, an house;	*Numba*, houses.
Ngavu, a basket;	*Ngavu*, baskets.
Chengo, a camp;	*Chengo*, camps.
Chalo, a caravan;	*Chalo*, caravans.
Ngedza, a chisel;	*Ngedza*, chisels.

CLASS IV. Those beginning with *chi-* and *ki-*. These form their plurals by changing their singular prefix into *i-*; as—

Kimandi, a cake;	*Imandi*, cakes.
King'abwe, a centipede;	*Ing'abwe*, centipedes.
Kinyezwa, a chin;	*Inyezwa*, chins.

CLASS V. Those which in the singular begin with *i-*, and form their plurals by changing *i-* into *ma-*; as—

Itong'o, a civet cat;	*Matong'o*, civet cats.
Itumbi, an egg;	*Matumbi*, eggs.
Ikuyu, a fish;	*Makuyu*, fishes.
Ithea, a flower;	*Mathea*, flowers.

CLASS VI. Those beginning with *u-* or *w-* in the

singular. These form their plurals by changing the singular prefix into *ny-*; as—

Ua,	*Nya*.
Ulii, thread;	*Ndii*, threads.
Wiiyo, a wall;	*Nyiyo*, walls.
Wia, business;	*Nyia*, businesses.
Uova, a loop;	*Nyova*, loops.

Note 1. Those in *u* followed by *th* or *Z* take *n* only instead of *u*; as—

Uthuku, evil;	*Nthuku*, evils.
Uzio, a face;	*Nzio*, faces.

Note 2. *U-*, followed by *l* or *r*, takes *n*, and changes *l* or *r* into *d*; as—

Ulembwa, guttapercha;	*Ndembwa*, guttaperchas.
Ullii, a wall;	*Ndii*, walls.

Note 3. *U-*, followed by *b*, *v*, *w*, changes *u* into *m*, and is always followed by *b*; as—

Uviyo, a knife;	*Mbiyo*, knives.
Uwathi, a song;	*Mbathi*, songs.
Uwau, a side;	*Mbau*, sides.
Uwenji, a razor;	*Mbenji*, razors.

Note 4. *U*, followed by *t*, changes *ut* of the singular into *nz* to form the plural; as—

Utuka, night;	*Nzuka*, nights.

Note 5. *U*, followed by *ny*, simply drops the *u* to form the plural; as—

Unyai, a foot;	*Nyai*, feet.

Note 6. *U*, followed by *k*, drops the *u* and takes *ma*; as—

Ukakaa, a nostril; *Makakaa*, nostrils.

Perhaps also simply the *u* is dropped; as—

Ukungu, dust; *Kungu*, dusts.

Class VII. Those which take *ka-* in the singular, and change *ka-* into *tu-* to form the plural; as—

Kalabuku, hare;	*Tulabuku*, hares.
Kamwanya, noose;	*Tumwanya*, nooses.
Kabindi, a joint;	*Tubindi*, joints.
Kaindo, an insect;	*Tuindo*, insects.

Class VIII. The word *wandu*, a place. This word requires special forms in all adjectives and pronouns connected with it.

Class IX. All infinitives of verbs may be used as substantives answering to the English participle in -ing; as—

Ku-thaima, hunting; *Ku-thaima*, huntings.

ADJECTIVES.

ADJECTIVES (as in Swahili) follow the substantives they agree with. Each adjective is subject to a variety of changes, according to the class and number of the substantive it qualifies. These changes are made at the beginning of the word; as—

Mundu mucheo, a good man.
Andu acheo, good men.
Mti mthuku, a bad tree.
Mibi mithuku, bad trees.

Substantives of any class, if they denote the names of living beings, may take adjectives bearing the adjectival prefix proper to the first class; as—

Kiletu mucheo, a good girl.
Iletu acheo, good girls.
Morma mucheo, a good cow.
Miorma anini, small cows.

It is equally right to use the adjectival prefix proper to the class of noun it qualifies; as—

Kabizji kadidi, a little boy.
Tubizji tucheo, good boys.
Kana kaume, a male child.
Twana twaume, male children.

The following are the adjectival prefixes proper to the several classes of nouns:—

Class	I.	*Sing.*	mu-, m-.	*Plur.*	a-.
„	II.	„	mu-, m-.	„	mi-.
„	III.	„	n-.		n-.
„	IV.	„	ki-.	„	i-.
„	V.	„	di-.	„	ma-.
„	VI.		m-.		n-.
„	VII.	„	ka-.	„	tu-.
„	VIII.	„	wa-.	„	wa-.
„	IX.	„	ku-.	„	ku-.

Adjectives beginning with a vowel require prefixes ending with a consonant; as—

Mu mwingi, mu muingi, much dust.
Tuthoka twingi, tuthoka tuingi, many adzes.
-a before *e-* and *i-* merges into *e-*.
-a- is sometimes suppressed before *o-*.
-i- is absorbed by a following *i-*.

The following table shows how the adjectives are formed and used:—

Class	I.	*Mundu mucheo*, a good man.
		Andu acheo, good men.
„	II.	*Mti mcheo*, a good tree.
		Miti micheo, good trees.
„	III.	*Numba ncheo*, a good house.
		Numba ncheo, good houses.
„	IV.	*Kimandi kicheo*, a good cake.
		Imandi icheo, good cakes.
„	V.	*Itumbi icheo*, a good egg.
		Matumbi macheo, good eggs.
„	VI.	*Uwathi mcheo*, a good song.
		Mbathi ncheo, good songs.

Class VII. *Kaindo kacheo*, a good insect.
Tuindo tucheo, good insects.
„ VIII. *Wandu pacheo*, a good place.
Wandu pacheo, good places.
„ IX. *Kuthaima kucheo*, good hunting.
Kuthaima kucheo, good huntings.

The word *-anata* (How many?) takes the same prefixes as regular adjectives; as—

Class I. *Andu aanata?* how many men?
„ II. *Miti mianata?* how many trees?
„ III. *Numba nanata?* how many houses?
„ IV. *Imanda ianata?* how many cakes?
„ V. *Matumbi maanata?* how many eggs?
„ VI. *Mbathi nanata?* how many songs?
„ VII. *Tuindo twaanata?* how many insects?
„ VIII. *Wandu paanata?* how many places?
„ IX. *Kuthaima kwanata?* how many huntings?

The words *-ondi*, all, *-we* or *-nai*, having, take the same prefixes as pronouns; as—

Class I. *Andu aondi*, all men.
„ II. *Miti yondi*, all trees.
„ III. *Numba chondi*, all houses.
„ IV. *Imanda ichondi*, all cakes.
„ V. *Matumbi yondi*, all eggs.
„ VI. *Mbathi chondi*, all songs.
„ VII. *Tuindo twondi*, all insects.
„ VIII. *Wandu wondi*, all places.
„ IX. *Kuthaima kwondi*, all huntings.

Class I. *Mundu yunai kiliku*, a man having wisdom.
Andu anai makuyu, men having fish.
„ II. *Muti unai mathango* a tree having leaves.
Miti inai mabeki, trees having fruit.

Class III. *Numba inai iko*, a house having dirt.
Numba zinai ucheo, houses having beauty.
„ IV. *Kimanda kinai uwio*, a cake having sweetness.
Imanda inai mabeki, cakes having fruit.
„ V. *Itumbi inai ucheo*, an egg having beauty.
Matumbi ynnai ucheo, eggs having beauty.
„ VI. *Uwathi unai uthoko*, a bad song.
Mbathi zinai uthoko, bad songs.
„ VII. *Kaindo kanai uki*, an insect having honey.
Tuindo tunai nzea, insects having wings.
„ VIII. *Wandu wanai mba*, a place having rocks.
Wandu wanai nyichi, places having grass.
„ IX. *Kuthaima kunai uvēa*, hunting having danger.
Kuthaima kunai mbēa, hunting having dangers.

The following table shows the forms taken by *-mwe*, one, and *-ingi* or *-engi*, many.

Class I. *Mundu yumwe*, one man.
Andu aengi, or *mangi*, many men.
„ II. *Mti umwe*, one tree.
Miti mingi, many trees.
„ III. *Numba imwe*, one house.
Numba zingi, many houses.
„ IV. *Kimanda kimwe*, one cake.
Imanda yingi, many cakes.
„ V. *Itumbi imwe*, one egg.
Matumbi mengi, many eggs.
„ VI. *Uwathi umwe*, one song.
Mbathi nyingi, many songs.
„ VII. *Kaindo kamwe*, one insect.
Tuindo twingi, many insects.
„ VIII. *Wandu wamwe*, one place.
Wandu wangi, many places.

Class IX. *Kuthaima kumwe*, one hunting.
Kuthaima kwingi, many huntings.

The word *-nge*, other, takes prefixes as follows:—

Class I. *Mundu yunge*, another man.
Andu ange, other men.
„ II. *Mti unge*, another tree.
Miti yange or *minge*, other trees.
„ III. *Numba inge*, another house.
Numba zinge, other houses.
„ IV. *Kimanda kinge*, another cake.
Imanda inge, other cake.
„ V. *Itumbi inge*, another egg.
Matumbi mange, other eggs.
„ VI. *Uwathi unge*, another song.
Mbathi zinge, other songs.
„ VII. *Kaindo kange*, another insect.
Tuindo tunge, other insects.
„ VIII. *Wandu wange*, another place.
Wandu wange, other places.
„ IX. *Kuthaima kunge*, another hunting.
Kuthaima kunge, other huntings.

-Nge, other, is often used as an enclitic; as—
Mundunge, another man.

Irregular Adjectives.

These are formed after the following rules:—

1. By using the tense of a verb expressing the quality required; as—

Ndata ikalakala, the stick is straight.
Ndata imamele, the stick is crooked.
Muthungi ukuchuwa, the jar is full.

2. By using a substantive connected with the thing to be qualified by the preposition *wa*; as—

Mundu wa kaú, a quarrelsome man.

3. By use of *-nai*, having, and a substantive expressing the quality required; as—

Mundu yunai kiliku, a wise man.
Andu anai iko, dirty men.

4. By using the preposition *-a* with the infinite of a verb; as—

Mundu wa kwaka, a builder.
Andu a kuima, agriculturists.

The Comparison of Adjectives.

Comparison is expressed in the following ways.

1. By simply stating the qualities of the two objects spoken of; as—

Mundu uyu muckco, mundu uiya, mthoko, this man is good, that man is bad; this man is better than that one.

2. By the use of *ku-kila*, to surpass; as—

Mundu uyu muckco, akilite uiya; this man surpasses that one in goodness.

Mti uyu kucha mno mwaka uyu, kukila mwaka ula unge, this tree bears very much this year, surpassing that other year.

The superlative is expressed by—

1. The simple use of the adjective; as—

Andu ackeo athaime, the best men may hunt.

2. By the use of *ku-kila*, to surpass; and *-ondi*, all; as—

Mundu yuyu muckco, kuakila andu aondi, this man is good, surpassing all the men; this is the best man.

Mkamba yuyu akaakila andu aonde, this *mkamba* will surpass all the men, will be the best of all the men.

NUMERALS.

The following are the cardinal numbers :—

1 = *Mondi.*
2 = *Keri.*
3 = *Kadatu.*
4 = *Kana.*
5 = *Kathano.*
6 = Th*andatu.*
7 = *Monza.*
8 = *Nyanya.*
9 = *Kenda.*
10 = *Ikumi.*
11 = *Ikumi na imwe.*
12 = *Ikumi na keri.*
13 = „ „ *kadatu.*
14 = „ „ *kana.*
15 = „ „ *kathano.*
16 = „ „ th*andatu.*
17 = „ „ *monza.*
18 = „ „ *nyanya.*
19 = „ „ *kenda.*
20 = *Milongo iri.*
21 = „ „ *na imwe.*
22 = „ „ „ *keri.*
23 = „ „ „ *kadatu.*
24 = „ „ „ *kana.*
25 = „ „ „ *kathano.*

26 = „ „ „ *thandatu.*
27 = „ „ „ *monza.*
28 = „ „ „ *nyanya.*
29 = „ „ „ *kenda.*
30 = „ *itatu.*
40 = „ *ina.*
50 = „ *ithano.*
60 = „ *thandatu.*
70 = „ *monza.*
80 = „ *nyanya.*
90 = „ *kenda.*
100 = *Iyana.*
200 = *Mayana* or *mana maeri.*
1000 = *Mana makumi.*
2000 = *Mana makumi maeri.*

Probably the cardinal numbers are seldom used by the Kambas beyond *iyana*, 100.

The number always follows the noun; as—

Mundu yumwe, one man.
Imanda idatu, three cakes.

When an adjective is used with a noun which is qualified by a number, the number comes last; as—

Mundu mucheo yumwe, one good man.
Andu athuku athano, five bad men.
Matumbi manini thandatu, six small eggs.

The ordinal numbers are expressed by the use of the preposition *-a*, of; as—

Mundu wa mbee, the first man.
Muti wa keri, the second tree.
Kimanda cha katatu, the third cake.
Kaindo ka kana, the fourth insect.

The following are the ordinal numbers :—

First, *-a mbĕe.*
Second, *-a keri.*
Third, *-a kadatu.*
Fourth, *-a kana.*
Fifth, *-a kathano.*
Sixth, *-a thandatu.*
Seventh, *-a monza.*
Eight, *-a nyanya.*
Ninth, *-a kenda.*
Tenth, *-a ikumi.*
etc. etc.
Last, *-a mu-thida.*

Class	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sing.	Mundu	Muti	Numba	Kimanda	Itumbi	Uwathi	Kaindo	Wandu	Kuthaima
1	mondi	mmondi	mondi	kimondi	imondi	mondi	kamondi	wamondi	kumondi
Plur.	Andu	Miti	Numba	Imanda	Matumbi	Mbathi	Tuindo	Wandu	Kuthaima
2	aeri	yeri	yiri	iyiri	mairi	yiri	twiri	wairi	kwiri
3	adatu	midatu	datu	idatu	madatu	datu	tudatu	wadetu	kudatu
4	akana	mina	kana	ina	mana	kana	twana	wana	kwana
5	a*th*ano	mi*th*ano	*th*ano	i*th*ano	ma*th*ano	*th*ano	tu*th*ano	wa*th*ano	ku*th*ano
6	*th*andatu	*th*andato	*th*andatu	*th*andatu	*th*andatu	*th*andatu	*th*andatu	*th*andatu	*th*andatu
7	monza	mimonza	monza	imonza	mamonza	monza	tumonza	wamonza	kumonza
8	nyanya	nyanya	nyanya	nyanya	nyanya	nyanya	nyanya	nyanya	nyanya
9	kenda	kenda	kenda	kenda	kenda	kenda	kenda	kenda	kenda
10	kumi	kumi	kumi	kumi	kumi	kumi	kumi	kumi	kumi

When used in agreement with substantives the numerals take prefixes as above.

PRONOUNS.

Personal Pronouns.

The following are the full forms of the personal pronouns:—

I, *ninye.*	We, *nithi.*
Thou, *niwe.*	You, *inyui.*
He *or* she, *miya.*	They, *acho.*

The second person singular is always used when only one person is referred to.

The first and second persons singular are often contracted into *nye* and *we.*

There are no special forms to denote *it* or *they* when referring to inanimate things.

The objective case of the personal pronouns is the same as that given above for the subjective.

The possessive case is generally expressed by the regular possessive pronouns.

The possessive pronouns *-akwa* and *-cho,* which are used with words denoting animate beings, may also be used with words denoting inanimate things. The prefix proper to the class of substantive with which the pronoun agrees must always be prefixed, as—

Ngathi yakwe ndong'ola, the ox's hump.
Kiao chakwe uchi, the bridge of the river.

The possessive case is formed by prefixing the preposition *-a*, of, to a special form of the personal pronoun; as—

W-a-kwa, mine;	*W-etu* for *w-a-etu*, ours.
W-a-go, thine;	*W-enyu* for *w-a-enyu*, yours.
W-a-kwe, his *or* hers;	*W-eyo* for *w-a-eyo*, theirs.

The preposition *na*, and *or* with, is often prefixed to a shortened form of the personal pronoun to express *and* or *with* me, thee, him, etc.; as—

Na-nye, and *or* with me;	*Na-thi*, and or with us.
Na-we „ thee;	*Na-nyui*, „ ye.
Na-ya „ him or her;	*Na-cho*, „ them.

These forms are used to express both the subjective and objective cases; as—

Na-nye, and I, *or* and me, etc.
Na-thi, and we, *or* with us, etc.

The following prefixes are used in conjugating the verb to denote the subjective or nominative case of the personal pronoun:—

N- or *ni-*, I;	*Tu-* or *tw-*, we.
U-, thou;	*M-* or *mu-*, ye.
Y-, *ya-*, or *a-*, he or she;	*Ma*, they.

The forms used with verbs to denote the objective case of the personal pronouns denoting animate beings are as follows:—

-Ni- *or* *-n-*, I;	*-Tu-* or *-tw*, us.
-Ku- or *-kw-*, thee;	*-M-* or *-mw-*, you.
-M-, *-mu-*, *-mw-*, him *or* her;	*-A-*, them.

These subjective and objective prefixes are only used with substantives of the first class, and with

those words, which, being the names of animate beings, use the prefixes proper to the first class.

Wherever possible, those prefixes ending in a vowel must be followed by a syllable beginning with a consonant; and those ending in a consonant, must be followed by a syllable beginning with a vowel.

When two vowels come together, a change is generally made in one of them; as—

Twingi for *tu-ingi*, many
Wenyu for *wa-enyu*, you.
Twiuza for *tu-iuza*, we dig.
Yu-kwenda, not *yu-ku-enda*, he loves thee.

The following prefixes are used to express the personal pronoun when required by words denoting inanimate objects.

The Subjective Case.

Class	II.	*Sing.*	u-, wa-.	*Plur.*	i-, ya-.
„	III.	„	I-, ya-.	„	zi-, z-.
„	IV.	„	ki-, ch-.	„	i-, y-.
„	V.	„	i-, y-.	„	ga-, g-.
„	VI.	„	u-, wa-.	„	zi-, z-.
„	VII.	„	ka-, ka-.	„	tu-, tw-.
„	VIII.	„	w-, wa-.	„	w-.
„	IX.	„	ku-, kw-.	„	ku-, kw-.

The Objective Case.

Class	II.	*Sing.*	-u-.	*Plur.*	-i-.
„	III.	„	-i-.	„	-zi-.
„	IV.	„	-ki-.	„	-i-.
„	V.	„	-i-.	„	-ga.
„	VI.	„	-u-.	„	-zi-.

Class	VII.	*Sing.*	-ka-.	*Plur.*	-tu-.
„	VIII.	„	-wa-.	„	-wa-.
„	IX.	„	-ku-.	„	-ku-.

The prefixes *ya-* and *-ya-* are often used by those who are somewhat acoquainted with the Swahili language to denote *ga-* and *-ga-* respectively.

In these prefixes *-u-* becomes *-w-*, and *-i-* becomes *-y-*, before vowels.

The following table shows the manner of using the objective prefixes.

The objective prefix immediately precedes the verb.

The use of the prefixes with both vowel and consonantal verbs is shown.

Class I. *Yu-ni-taa*, he sells me.
Yu-n-ua, he buys me.
Yu-ku-taa, he sells you.
Yu-kw-ua, he buys you.
Yu-mu-taa, he sells him.
Yu-mw-ua, he buys him.
Yu-tu-taa, he sells us.
Yu-tw-ua, he buys us.
Yu-mu-taa, he sells you.
Yu-mw-ua, he buys you.
Yu-a-taa, he sells them.
Yu-a-ua, he buys them.

„ II. *Yu-u-taa*, he sells it (*muti*, a tree).
Yu-w-ua, he buys it.
Yu-i-taa, he sells them (*miti*, trees).
Yu-y-ua, he buys them.

„ III. *Yu-i-taa*, he sells it (*numba*, a house).
Yu-y-ua, he buys it.
Yu-zi-taa, he sells them (*numba*, houses).
Yu-zi-ua, he buys them.

Class IV. *Yu-ki-taa*, he sells it (*kimanda*, a cake).
Yu-ki-ua, he buys it.
Yu-i-taa, he sells them (*imanda*, cakes).
Yu-y-ua, he buys them.

„ V. *Yu-i-taa*, he sells it (*itumbi*, an egg).
Yu-y-ua, he buys it.
Yu-ga-taa, he sells them (*matumbi*, eggs).
Yu-ga-ua, he buys them.

„ VI. *Yu-u-taa*, he sells it (*uvathi*, a song).
Yu-w-ua, he buys it.
Yu-zi-taa, he sells them (*mbathi*, songs).
Yu-zi-ua, he buys them.

„ VII. *Yu-ka-taa*, he sells it (*kaindo*, an insect).
Yu-ka-ua, he buys it.
Yu-tu-taa, he sells them (*tuindo*, insects).
Yu-tw-ua, he buys them.

„ VIII. *Yu-wa-taa*, he sells it *or* them (*wandu*, place or places).
Yu-wa-ua, he buys it *or* them.

„ IX. *Yu-ku-taa*, he sells it *or* them (*kuthaima*, hunting or huntings).
Yu-kw-ua, he buys it *or* them.

In all cases the first prefix is that of the subjective case of the personal pronoun; as—

Yu-ka-zi-taa numba, he will sell the houses.

The full forms of the personal pronouns are often used for emphasis; as—

Ninye ni-ka-ku-taa niwe, I, I will certainly sell you.
Miya yu-ni-wenda ninye, he, he does love me.

Possessive Pronouns.

The possessive pronouns always follow directly after the noun denoting the thing possessed.

The prefix varies according to the class and number of the word denoting the thing possessed.

The change is always made at the beginning of the word.

The unchangeable parts are as follows:—

My, *-kwa.*	Our, *-etu.*
Thy, *-go.*	Your, *-enyu.*
His, hers, its, *-kwe.*	Their, *-eyo.*

The third persons, singular and plural, of these forms are used for all classes of substantives denoting either animate or inanimate objects.

All the above forms are often used as enclitics, especially with such common words as; *mwana*, a son, *acha*, father, *mwanatha*, a brother; as—

Mwanakwa, my child.
Mwanago, thy child.
Mwanakwe, his *or* her child.
Mwanetu, our child.
Mwanenyu, your child.
Mwaneyo, their child.

In the plural numbers the final *-a* of the substantive is absorbed by the initial vowel of the pronoun.

The initial letters proper to each class of substantives are as follows:—

Class	I.	*Sing.*	w-a-.	*Plur.*	w-a-.
,,	II.	,,	w-a-.	,,	y-a-.
,,	III.	,,	y-a-.	,,	z-a-.
,,	IV.	,,	ch-a-.	,,	i-a-.
,,	V.	,,	i-a-.	,,	g-a-, *or* y-a-.
,,	VI.	,,	w-a-.	,,	z-a-.

Class	VII.	*Sing.*	k-a-.	*Plur.*	tu-a-.
„	VIII.	„	w-a-.	„	w-a-.
„	IX.	„	kw-a-.	„	kw-a-.

Examples of the use and forms of the possessive pronoun.

Class I. *Mundu wakwa, wago, wakwe, wetu, wenyu, wayo.*
Andu akwa, ago, akwe, aetu, aenyu, ayo.

„ II. *Muti wakwa, wago, wakwe, wetu, wenyu, wayo.*
Miti yakwa, yago, yakwe, yetu, yenyu, yayo.

„ III. *Numba yakwa, yago, yakwe, yetu, yenyu, yago.*
Numba zakwa, zago, zakwe, zetu, zenyu, zago.

„ IV. *Kimanda chakwa, chago, chakwe, chetu, chenyu, chayo.*
Imanda iyakwa, iyago, iyakwe, iyetu, iyenyu, iyayo.

„ V. *Itumbi iyakwa, iyago, iyakwe, iyetu, iyenyu, iyayo.*
Matumbi gakwa, gago, gakwe, getu, genyu, gayo.

„ VI. *Uwathi wakwa, wago, wakwe, wetu, wenyu, wayo.*
Mbathi zakwa, zago, zakwe, zetu, zenyu, zayo.

„ VII. *Kaindo kakwa, kago, kakwe, ketu, kenyu, kayo.*
Tuindo twakwa, twago, twakwe, twetu, twenyu, twayo.

„ VIII. *Wandu wakwa, wago, wakwe, wetu, wenyu, wayo.*
Wandu wakwa, wago, wakwe, wetu, wenyu, wayo.

Class IX. *Kuthaima kwakwa, kwago, kwakwe, kwetu, kwenyu, kwayo.*
Kuthaima kwakwa, kwago, kwakwe, kwetu, kwenyu, kwayo.

Sometimes the personal pronouns are used directly after the possessive pronouns, for the sake of giving emphasis; as—

Kimanda chakwa ninye, my own cake.
Mbathi zago niwe, your own songs.
Matumbi genyu inyui, your own eggs.
Mitu yayo acho, their own trees.

When it is necessary to denote the owner of a thing, the preposition *-a*, of, is used, having the initial letters proper to the class and number of the substantive with which it is used; as—

Numba ya kithwia, the king's house.
Itumo iya Mkamba, the Mkamba's spear.

When it is desirable to denote very distinctly the owner of a thing, the proper possessive pronoun is used instead of the preposition *-a*, of; as—

Ndong'ola zakwe kithwia, the king's own oxen.
Imanda iyayo Akamba, the Kamba's own cakes.
Numba yakwe mundu, the man's own house.

The following are the forms taken by the preposition *-a*, of, when used with the several classes of nouns:—

Class		*Sing.*		*Plur.*	
,,	II.	,,	wa.	,,	ya.
,,	III.	,,	ya.	,,	za.
,,	IV.	,,	cha.	,,	iya.
,,	V.	,,	iya.	,,	ga.
,,	VI.	,,	wa.	,,	za.

Class	VII.	*Sing.*	ka.	*Plur.*	twa.
„	VIII.	„	wa.	„	wa.
„	IX.	„	kwa.	„	kwa.

Reflective Pronouns.

Self is expressed by the use of the word *ny'o*, heart; as—

Ny'o yakwa, my heart, myself.
Ny'o zetu, our hearts, ourselves.

Itself, themselves, etc., are expressed by the use of the word *-ēnyi*, with the proper prefix.
The following table shows the various forms :—

Class	I.	*Mundu mwēnyi*, the man himself. *Andu aēnyi*, the men themselves.
„	II.	*Muti mwēnyi*, the tree itself. *Miti yēnyi*, the trees themselves.
„	III.	*Numba yēnyi*, the house itself. *Numba zēnyi*, the houses themselves.
„	IV.	*Kimanda chēnyi*, the cake itself. *Imanda iyēnyi*, the cakes themselves.
„	V.	*Itumbi iyēnyi*, the egg itself. *Matumbi gēnyi*, the eggs themselves.
„	VI.	*Uwathi mwēnyi*, the song itself. *Mbathi zēnyi*, the songs themselves.
„	VII.	*Kaindo kaēnyi*, the insect itself. *Tuindo twēnyi*, the insects themselves.
„	VIII.	*Wandu wēnyi*, the place itself. *Wandu wēnyi*, the places themselves.
„	IX.	*Kuthaima kwēnyi*, the hunting itself. *Kuthaima kwenyi*, the huntings themselves.

Mwēnyi is used to denote *myself* and *thyself*.
Aēnyi is used to denote *ourselves* and *yourselves*.

Demonstrative Pronouns.

There are three sets of demonstrative pronouns—

1. Those referring to objects near at hand.
2. Those referring to things at a distance.
3. Those denoting objects before-mentioned.

1. *This* or *that*, *these* or *those*, of objects near at hand.

Class	I.	*Mundu uya*, this man. *Andu aya*, these men.
,,	II.	*Muti uya*, this tree. *Miti iya*, these trees.
,,	III.	*Numba iya*, this house. *Numba ziya*, these houses.
,,	IV.	*Kimanda kiya*, this cake. *Imanda iya*, these cakes.
,,	V.	*Itumbi ii*, this egg. *Matumbi gaa*, these eggs.
,,	VI.	*Uwathi uu*, this song. *Mbathi zii*, these songs.
,,	VII.	*Kaindo kii*, this insect. *Twindo twii*, these insects.
,,	VIII.	*Wandu waa*, this place *or* these places.
,,	IX.	*Kuthaima kwaa*, this hunting these huntings.

2. *That* or *those* yonder at some distance.

Class	I.	*Mundu uuya*, that man. *Andu aaya*, those men.
,,	II.	*Muti uuya*, that tree. *Miti iiya*, those trees.
,,	III.	*Numba iiya*, that house. *Numba ziiya*, those houses.

Class IV. *Kimanda kiiya*, that cake
Imanda iiya, those cakes.
„ V. *Itumbi iiya*, that egg.
Matumbi gaiya, those eggs.
„ VI. *Uwathi uuya*, that song.
Mbathi ziiya, those songs.
„ VII. *Kaindo kaaya*, that insect.
Tuindo tuuya, those insects.
„ VIII. *Wandu waaya*, that place *or* those places.
„ IX. *Kuthaim kuuya*, that hunting *or* those huntings.

3. *This* or *that*, *these* or *those*, referring to things before referred to.

Class I. *Mundu uyu*, that man.
Andu awu, those men.
„ II. *Muti uyu*, that tree.
Miti iyu, those trees.
„ III. *Numba iyu*, that house.
Numba ziyu, those houses.
„ IV. *Kimanda kiyu*, that cake.
Imanda iyu, those cakes.
„ V. *Itumbi iyu*, that egg.
Matumbi gayu, those eggs.
„ VI. *Uwathi uyu*, that song.
Mbathi ziyu, those songs.
„ VII. *Kaindo kayu*, that insect.
Twindo tuyu, those insects.
„ VIII. *Wandu wayu*, that place *or* those places.
„ IX. *Kuthaima kuyu*, that hunting *or* those huntings.

To point out a person or thing at a great distance off, the second class of demonstrative pronouns is used,

stress being laid on the final syllable. The greater the stress and the more the voice rises into a falsetto, the greater is the distance denoted; as—

Mtu uuya, that man there.
Mtu uuyāā, that man further off.
Mtu uuyāāā, that one still further away.

Often the demonstrative pronoun is doubled to denote a particular place or thing; as—

Umama paapaa, you may stand just here.
Umama paayapaaya, you may stand just there.

The forms, "It is I," It is thou," etc., are expressed by using the syllable *ni*, preceded by the personal pronoun; as—

Ninye ni, it is I.	*Nithi ni*, it is we.
Niwe ni, it is thou.	*Inyui ni*, it is you.
Miya ni, it is he.	*Acho ni*, it is they.

Niya uyu, that is he. *Tiya uyu*, that is not he.
Nucho! uucho! there it is! there it is!

Relative Pronouns.

Apparently there is not a set of relative pronominal prefixes in use, as in Swahili.

When the relative is the subject of the sentence, it is expressed by a simple statement; as—

Mundu, anyenda, the man, he loves me; the man who loves me.

Miti, yakaʃia mabeki {the trees, they will bear fruit; the trees which will bear fruit.

Mundu yunayatilie miti iyo, akanka choko	the man, he cut trees yesterday; he will come to-morrow. the man who cut trees yesterday will come to-morrow.

When the relative is the object of the sentence, the proper objective prefix is used, both before and with the verb; as—

Andu a ninaaithiie	the men, them, I fed them; the men whom I fed.
Kimanda ki akakiiya	the cake, it, they will eat it; the cake which they will eat.
Miti i tukaitila choko	the trees, them, we shall cut them to-morrow; the trees which we shall cut to-morrow.
Kaindo ka ninakaonie iyo	the insect, it, I saw it yesterday. the insect which I saw yesterday.
Andu a manaaonie iyo, adikanka choko	the men, them, they saw them yesterday; they will not come to-morrow; the men whom they saw yesterday will not come to-morrow.

Interrogative Pronouns.

Some few interrogatives are not variable; as—

Who? *nu?*	What? *chau?*
When? *ndi?*	Where? *naku?*

Some of these interrogatives take the variable pronominal prefix referring to the person or thing with which the interrogative is connected; as—

Mundu yuau? what man?
Kintu kii ni chau? what is this thing?

VERBS.

All Kamba verbs end in *-a*; as—

Ku-bigila, to follow.
Ku-waa, to divide.

The simplest form of the verb is used in Kamba, as in Swahili and English, for the second person singular of the imperative; as—

Bigila, follow;	*Waa*, divide.
Ananga, destroy;	*Ukila*, depart.
Tala, count;	*Kunika*, cover.

The second person plural is formed by suffixing the vowel *-i* to the form of the second person singular; as—

Uka, come;	*Ukai*, come ye.
Bigilai, follow ye;	*Ukilai*, depart ye.
Talai, count ye;	*Kunikai*, cover ye.

There is a negative as well as an affirmative conjugation, in both of which the persons and tenses are denoted by prefixes.

The various prefixes, together with the verb, form,

generally, one word only, and these when examined separately denote the person, number, tense, mood, subject, and object.

Indicative Mood.

Present Tense.

This tense answers to the common English present tense, as I go, I hunt, I love, etc. It is formed by prefixing *-a-* to the verb. This is preceded by the subjective case of the personal pronoun; as—

N-a-thaim-a, I hunt.

Class.	*Sing.*		*Plur.*	
I.	*N-a-thaim-a,* I hunt.		*Tw-a-thaim-a,* we hunt.	
	W-a-thaim-a, thou huntest.		*Mw-a-thaim-a,* you hunt.	
	Y-a-thaim-a-, he *or* she hunts.		*M-a-thaim-a,* they hunt.	
II.	*W-a-end-a*	it likes.	*Y-a-end-a*	they like.
III.	*Y-a-end-a*		*Z-a-end-a*	
IV.	*Ch-a-end-a*		*Y-a-end-a*	
V.	*Y-a-end-a*		*G-a-end-a*	
VI.	*W-a-end-a*		*Z-a-end-a*	
VII.	*K-a-end-a*		*Tw-a-end-a*	
VIII.	*W-a-end-a*		*W-a-end-a*	
IX.	*Kw-a-end-a*		*Kw-a-end-a*	

Present Imperfect Tense.

This tense is formed by prefixing the sign *-ki-* to the verb. It is also used as the English present participle.

Class.	*Sing.*		*Plur.*	
I.	*Ni-ki-thaim-a*, I am hunting.		*Tu-ki-thaim-a*, we are hunting.	
	U-ki-thaim-a, thou wast hunting.		*M-ki-thaim-a*, you are hunting.	
	A-ki-thaim-a, he *or* she was hunting.		*Ma-ki-thaim-a*, they are hunting.	
II.	*U-ki-end-a*	it is liking.	*I-ki-end-a*	they are liking.
III.	*I-ki-end-a*		*Zi-ki-end-a*	
IV.	*Ki-ki-end-a*		*I-ki-end-a*	
V.	*I-ki-end-a*		*Ga-ki-end-a*	
VI.	*U-ki-end-a*		*Zi-ki-end-a*	
VII.	*Ka-ki-end-a*		*Tu-ki-end-a*	
VIII.	*Wa-ki-end-a*		*Wa-ki-end-a*	
IX.	*Ku-ki-end-a*		*Ku-ki-end-a*	

Past Imperfect Tense.

The past imperfect is formed by prefixing the sign *-ku-* to the verb.

Class.	*Sing.*		*Plur.*	
I.	*N-gu-thaim-a*, I was hunting.		*Tu-ku-thaim-a*, we were hunting.	
	U-ku-thaim-a, thou wast hunting.		*M-ku-thaim-a*, you were hunting.	
	A-ku-thaim-a, he *or* she was hunting.		*M-ku-thaim-a*, they were hunting.	
II.	*U-ku-end-a*	it was liking.	*I-ku-end-a*	they were liking.
III.	*I-ku-end-a*		*Zi-ku-end-a*	
IV.	*Ki-ku-end-a*		*I-ku-end-a*	
V.	*I-ku-end-a*		*Ga-ku-end-a*	
VI.	*U-ku-end-a*		*Zi-ku-end-a*	
VII.	*Ka-ku-end-a*		*Tu-ku-end-a*	
VIII.	*Wa-ku-end-a*		*Wa-ku-end-a*	
IX.	*Ku-ku-end-a*		*Ku-ku-end-a*	

Present Perfect Tense.

This tense is formed by changing the final *-a* of the verb into *-iti*, and prefixing the personal pronoun.

Class.	*Sing.*		*Plur.*	
I.	*Ni-thaim-iti*, I have hunted.		*Tu-thaim-iti*, we have hunted.	
	U-thaim-iti, thou hast hunted.		*Mu-thaim-iti*, you have hunted.	
	Yu-thaim-iti, he *or* she has hunted.		*Ma-thaim-iti*, they have hunted.	
II.	*U-thaim-iti*	it has hunted.	*I-thaim-iti*	they have hunted.
III.	*I-thaim-iti*		*Zi thaim-iti*	
IV.	*Ki-thaim-iti*		*I-thaim-iti*	
V.	*I-thaim iti*		*Ga-thaim-iti*	
VI.	*U-thaim-iti*		*Zi-thaim-iti*	
VII.	*Ka-thaim-iti*		*Tu-thaim-iti*	
VIII.	*Wa-thaim-iti*		*Wa-thaim-iti*	
IX.	*Ku-thaim-iti*		*Ku-thaim-iti*	

Or with the verb *kwenda*, to like *or* love.

II.	*U-wend-iti*	it has liked.	*I-wend-iti*	they have loved.
III.	*I-wend-iti*		*Zi-wend-iti*	
IV.	*Ki-wend-iti*		*I-wend-iti*	
V.	*I wend-iti*		*Ga-wend-iti*	
VI.	*U-wend-iti*		*Zi-wend-iti*	
VII.	*Ka-wend-iti*		*Tu-wend-iti*	
VIII.	*Wa-wend-iti*		*Wa-wend-iti*	
IX.	*Ku-wend iti*		*Ku-wend-iti*	

Past Perfect Tense.

This tense is formed by changing the final *-a* of the verb into *-ie*, and prefixing the tense sign *-na*.

Class.	*Sing.*		*Plur.*	
I.	*Ni-na-thaim-ie*, hunted.	I	*Tu-na-thaim-ie*, hunted.	we
	U-na-thaim-ie, hunted.	thou	*Mu-na-thaim-ie*, hunted.	ye
	Yu-na-thaim-ie, she hunted.	he *or*	*Ma-na-thaim-ie*, hunted.	they
II.	*U-na-end-ie*		*I-na-end-ie*	
III.	*I-na-end-ie*		*Zi-na-end-ie*	
IV.	*Ki-na-end-ie*		*I-na-end-ie*	
V.	*I-na-end-ie*	it	*Ga-na-end-ie*	they
VI.	*U-na-end-ie*	liked.	*Zi-na-end-ie*	liked.
VII.	*Ka-na-end-ie*		*Tu-na-end-ie*	
VIII.	*Wa-na-end-ie*		*Wa-na-end-ie*	
IX.	*Ku-na-end-ie*		*Ku-na-end-ie*	

Future Tense.

This tense is formed by prefixing the sign *-ka-* to the simple form of the verb.

Class.	*Sing.*		*Plur.*	
I.	*N-ga-thaim-a*, hunt.	I shall	*Tu-ka-thaim-a*, shall hunt.	we
	U-ka-thaim-a, wilt hunt.	thou	*Mu-ka-thaim-a*, hunt.	ye will
	A-ka-thaim-a, she will hunt.	he *or*	*Ma-ka-thaim-a*, will hunt.	they
II.	*U-ka-end-a*		*I-ka-end-a*	
III.	*I-ka-end-a*		*Zi-ka-end-a*	
IV.	*Ki-ka-end-a*		*I-ka-end-a*	
V.	*I-ka-end-a*	it will	*Ga-ka-end-a*	they
VI.	*U-ka-end-a*	like.	*Zi-ka-end-a*	will like.
VII.	*Ka-ka-end-a*		*Tu-ka-end-a*	
VIII.	*Wa-ka-end-a*		*Wa-ka-end-a*	
IX.	*Ku-ka-end-a*		*Ku-ka-end-a*	

Imperative Mood.

The simplest form of the verb is used for the imperative. The plural is formed by changing the final *-a* into *-ai*; as—

Enda, love thou.	*Endai*, love ye.
Thaim-a, hunt thou.	*Thaim-ai*, hunt ye.
Thek-a, laugh thou.	*Thek-ai*, laugh ye.
Ickan-a, forgive thou.	*Ickan-ai*, forgive ye.

Subjunctive Mood.

This tense is formed by changing the final *-a* of the verb into *-e*.

Class.	*Sing.*	*Plur.*
I.	*Ni-thaim-e*, that I may hunt.	*Tu-thaim-e*, that we may hunt.
	U-thaim-e, that you may hunt.	*Mu-thaim-e*, that ye may hunt.
	Yu-thaim-e, that he *or* she may hunt.	*Ma-thaim-e*, that they may hunt.
II.	*U-thaim-e*	*I-thaim-e*
III.	*I-thaim-e*	*Zi-thaim-e*
IV.	*Ki-thaim-e*	*I-thaim-e*
V.	*I-thaim-e*	*Ga-thaim-e*
VI.	*U-thaim-e*	*Zi-thaim e*
VII.	*Ka-thaim-e*	*Tu-thaim-e*
VIII.	*Wa-thaim-e*	*Wa-thaim-e*
IX.	*Ku-thaim-e*	*Ku-thaim-e*

II.–IX. *Sing.*: that it may hunt. *Plur.*: that they may hunt.

These forms of the subjunctive mood are also used as imperatives, and are the only forms that can be so used in first and third persons.

When used with an interrogative, it asks, "Am I to," or "Is he to," etc.; as—

Ni-iy-e ndi? when am I to eat?
Yu-chok-e ndi? when is he to return?

The subjunctive is the proper form to express a purpose or object, and must be often used where in English an imperative is employed; as—
U-thumw-e u-chok-e miduki, rest, that you may return quickly.

Infinitive Mood.

The infinitive is formed by prefixing the syllable *ku-* to the simple form of the verb; as—

Ku-thi, to go. *Kw-enda*, to love.
Ku-tia, to forsake. *Ku-kuna*, to flog.

The *-u-* before *a*, *e*, *i*, becomes *-w-*; as in— But cf. p. 33

Kw-enda, to love. *Kw-ickana*, to forgive.
Kw-ina, to dance. *Kw-ausia*, to go astray.

The infinitive is used as a noun to denote the action of the verb; as—

Kwenda, loving. *Kuwaa*, dividing.

Negative Tenses.

Present Tense.

All Kamba verbs may be used with negative prefixes. These reverse the forms of the affirmative verbs.

The negative present is formed by prefixing the syllable *-di-* to the simple form of the verb.

Class.	*Sing.*		*Plur.*	
I.	*N-di-thaim-a*, I do not hunt.		*Tu-di-thaim-a*, we do not hunt.	
	U-di-thaim-a, thou dost not hunt.		*Mu-di-thaim-a*, ye do not hunt.	
	A-di-thaim-a, he *or* she does not hunt.		*Ma-di-thaim-a*, they do not hunt.	
II.	*U-di-thaim-a*	it does not hunt.	*I-di-thaim-a*	they do not hunt.
III.	*I-di-thaim-a*		*Zi-di-thaim-a*	
IV.	*Ki-di-thaim-a*		*I-di-thaim-a*	
V.	*I-di-thaim-a*		*Ga-di-thaim-a*	
VI.	*U-di-thaim-a*		*Zi-di-thaim-a*	
VII.	*Ka-di-thaim-a*		*Tu-di-thaim-a*	
VIII.	*Wa-di-thaim-a*		*Wa-di-thaim-a*	
IX.	*Ku-di-thaim-a*		*Ku-di-thaim-a*	

Negative Past Tense.

This tense is made by placing the tense sign *-na-* between the negative prefix and the verb.

Class.	*Sing.*		*Plur.*	
I.	*N-di-na-thaim-a*, I did not hunt.		*Tu-di-na-thaim-a*, we did not hunt.	
	U-di-na-thaim-a, thou didst not hunt.		*Mu-di-na-thaim-a*, ye did not hunt.	
	A-di-na-thaim-a, he *or* she did not hunt.		*Ma-di-na-thaim-a*, they did not hunt.	
II.	*U-di-na-end-a*	it did not like.	*I-di-na-end-a*	they did not like.
III.	*I-di-na-end-a*		*Zi-di-na-end-a*	
IV.	*Ki-di-na-end-a*		*I-di-na-end-a*	
V.	*I-di-na-end-a*		*Ga-di-na-end-a*	
VI.	*U-di-na-end-a*		*Zi-di-na-end-a*	
VII.	*Ka-di-na-end-a*		*Tu-di-na-end-a*	
VIII.	*Wa-di-na-end-a*		*Wa-di-na-end-a*	
IX.	*Ku-di-na-end-a*		*Ku-di-na-end-a*	

Negative Future Tense.

This tense is formed by placing the tense sign *-ka-* between the negative prefix and the verb.

Class.	*Sing.*		*Plur.*	
I.	*N-di-ka-thaim-a*, I shall not hunt.		*Tu-di-ka-thaim-a*, we shall not hunt.	
	U-di ka-thaim-a, thou shalt not hunt.		*Mu-di-ka-thaim-a*, ye shall not hunt.	
	A-di-ka-thaim-a, he *or* she shall not hunt.		*Ma-di-ka-thaim-a*, they shall not hunt.	
II.	*U-di-ka-end-a*	it will not like.	*I-di-ka-end-a*	they will not like.
III.	*I-di-ka-end-a*		*Zi-di-ka-end-a*	
IV.	*Ki-di-ka-end-a*		*I-di-ka-end-a*	
V.	*I-di-ka-end-a*		*Ga-di-ka-end-a*	
VI.	*U-di-ka-end-a*		*Zi-di-ka-end-a*	
VII.	*Ka-di-ka-end-a*		*Tu-di-ka-end-a*	
VIII.	*Wa-di-ka-en-da*		*Wa-di-ka-end-a*	
IX.	*Ku-di-ka-end-a*		*Ku-di-ka-end-a*	

The Negative Imperative

Is formed by using the particle *di* before the simplest form of the verb; as—

Di thaim-a, hunt not. *Di-thaim-ai*, hunt ye not.

The Negative Subjunctive

Is formed by prefixing the negative sign *-di-* to the subjunctive form of the verb; as—

M-di-thaim-e, that I may not hunt.
Tu-di-thaim-e, that we may not hunt.

ADVERBS, PREPOSITIONS, AND CONJUNCTIONS.

Adverbs.

These follow the words they qualify, and are often used as enclitics; as—

Ku-kuna muno, to flog severely.
Midukímno, very fast.

Adverbs are formed by using the preposition *kwa* with infinitives and substantives; as—

Kwa-ku-manda, scorchingly.
Kwa-ku-thauka, playfully.
Kwa mino, sweetly.
Kwa uthuku, badly.

Prepositions.

As in Swahili, there are but few prepositions in the Kamba language.

Na and *ni*, and.
Kwa, for.
Ku uma, since.
Y-a, of.
Kwa, from.

Conjunctions.

There are a few words used as conjunctions; as—

Na, and.
Ndi, but.

The conjunction is often expressed in the verb used, especially by the subjunctive.

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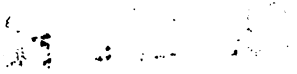

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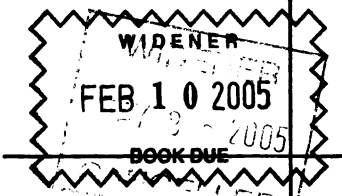

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